

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001

Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

Document: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0498

Comment submitted by Brent Walls, Upper Potomac Manager, Potomac Riverkeeper Incorporated

Submitter Information

Submitter's Representative: Brent Walls

Organization: Potomac Riverkeeper

General Comment

Dear Administrator Jackson:

Potomac Riverkeeper Inc writes to you today in response to the draft Phase I Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) that Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia (collectively, "Bay jurisdictions") submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency on September 24, 2010. The Chesapeake Bay watershed is in crisis. For more than twenty years, the citizens of Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, Virginia and West Virginia have watched as billions of dollars have been spent on efforts to preserve, protect and restore the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Despite these intense efforts, the Chesapeake Bay's prognosis is dire. We are losing our "national treasure." Our Bay is of central importance to the region's overall environmental quality and economic future. Currently, a variety of initiatives as well as proposed legislation are under consideration as solutions to the decline of the Chesapeake Bay. These include new programs and the infusion of dramatically expanded federal resources to accelerate the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. However, none of these programs and resources will succeed in restoring our Bay without effective and consistent implementation of the underlying existing law, the Clean Water Act ("CWA"). Unfortunately, for years all of these state/district partners have failed to adequately implement the CWA. Unless these states/this district focus attention on their legally insufficient performance, the extraordinarily important federal efforts now underway to save the Bay will have significantly less chance of succeeding.

The establishment of the Bay TMDL [Total Maximum Daily Load] marks a tremendous turning point in restoring the Chesapeake Bay by capping the total amount of discharged pollutants. To ensure that state allocations and the overall Bay TMDL are met, EPA has established a new accountability framework that repres

Attachments

EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0498.1: Comment attachment submitted by Brent Walls, Upper Potomac Manager, Potomac Riverkeeper Incorporated